



Agricultural Water Bodies Evaluation

Overview: In order to ensure appropriate beneficial use protection, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has initiated a project to incorporate a process into our water quality control plans (Basin Plans) for determining appropriate beneficial uses and level of protection for agricultural (Ag) surface water bodies.

Phase 1

Categorize Water Body Types

for Agricultural water bodies
(see Flow chart 1 on Page 2)

Evaluate appropriate designation and
level of protection for **Municipal and
Domestic Supply (MUN)**

Phase 2

Evaluate appropriate designation and
level of protection for **other beneficial
uses** in Agricultural water body
categories

Other beneficial uses include
**Aquatic Life (AQUA) and
Recreation (REC-1, REC-2)**

Timeline: December 2011 – December 2014

January 2014 – December 2017 (tentative)

Phase 1: The Central Valley Water Board, in partnership with CV-SALTS (Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long Term Sustainability) and a diverse stakeholder group, is currently developing a proposed Basin Plan Amendment to:

- Develop a process for categorizing Ag water body types, including constructed conveyances as well as modified and Ag dominated natural water bodies (Flow chart 1 on the next page shows a proposed alternative). This process to categorize Ag water body types is anticipated to provide the foundation for the Phase 2 effort.
- Incorporate a process to determine the appropriate application and level of protection of the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) beneficial use in Ag water bodies. The process is currently anticipated to propose MUN beneficial use designation by water body category; identify water quality objectives to protect the use; and identify any needed implementation requirements to ensure the objectives are met. The receiving waters of four Publically Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) in the Sacramento River Basin (cities of Willows, Colusa, Biggs and Live Oak) are currently being used as a case study for this process.

Phase 2: The initial MUN beneficial use evaluation will be followed by a larger effort to evaluate the appropriate protection of all applicable beneficial uses in Ag water bodies.

Website for more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity/mun_beneficial_use/index.shtml

How to get involved: Stakeholder meetings are held approximately every other month at the Central Valley Water Board Rancho Cordova office. Meetings are webcast to allow participation from remote locations. Check the website for more information or subscribe to the "Beneficial Uses of Agriculturally Dominated Water Bodies" email notification list at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml

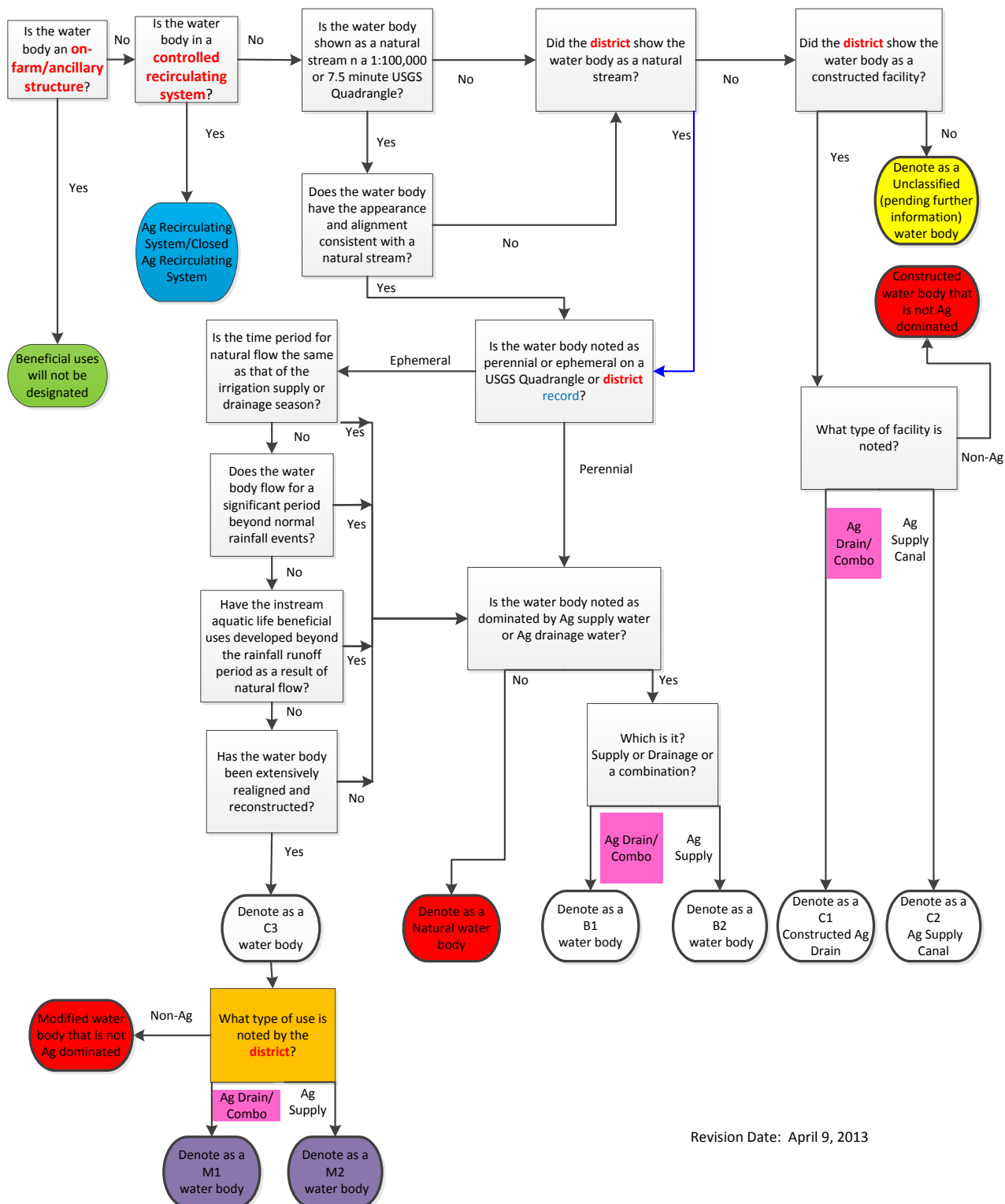
Questions? Comments?

Contact Anne Littlejohn at (916) 464-4840 or alittlejohn@waterboards.ca.gov

Flowchart 1

Potential Categorization of Water bodies Flowchart

(Based on the flowchart from the 1992 Inland Surface Water Plan Staff Report)



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